

and are not making significant efforts to do so. These countries, designated as "Tier 3," may be subject to certain sanctions, including the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance. These sanctions can be waived if the government makes significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards, or pursuant to a determination by the President that the provision of assistance would promote the purposes of the statute or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States. The President is to submit a notification to Congress no later than 90 days from the submission of the annual report as to the determination made for each Tier 3 country. I have received numerous reports from our government representatives and non-governmental organizations as to how the implementation of this tier ranking and the consequent threat or imposition of sanctions have dramatically impacted the trafficking practices in the relevant countries.

The determinations for 2006 were due on September 1st and it was the intention of the Committee to examine those determinations at the hearing. It was therefore deeply disappointing that the determinations still had not been provided by the President three weeks later. This raises grave concerns that were examined later in the hearing, including whether the Administration is giving due priority to its stated commitment to combat human trafficking. This delay past the legislative mandate sends the wrong message to these Tier 3 countries as to the urgency with which this serious human rights violation needs to be addressed. And in this instance, it was a missed opportunity to apply additional pressure on these countries through the attention that would have been focused on them at this important hearing.

We did, however, have the opportunity to inquire about the implementation of the Department of Health and Human Services' assistance program as mandated by the 2000 Act. The purpose of such programs is to expand benefits and services to trafficking victims in the United States without regard to the victim's immigration status. Unfortunately, evidence of the need for such assistance within our own country is growing. Just this month, it was reported that a woman from my home state of New Jersey pled guilty to being part of a smuggling ring that brought in more than 20 young women and teenagers from Honduras to work in a bar. These women were virtually imprisoned in apartments, and are alleged to have been beaten, raped, and subjected to forced abortions.

Such horrific stories make us all too aware that this modern form of slavery has silently infiltrated and poisoned the fabric not only of the U.S., but of virtually every society around the world. It is extremely important that this awareness be amplified, so that public outrage will further motivate those of us in government, shame those who are creating the demand for trafficking victims, and ultimately stop those responsible for perpetrating these human rights violations. We were privileged to have with us at the hearing a prominent public figure who is using his position on the world stage to publicize the reality and prevalence of human trafficking. Not only has Ricky Martin given his time and talent to promote the cause as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Children's Fund, but he has also established a foundation that is engaged in numer-

ous activities on behalf of trafficking victims and children. As just one indication of his personal commitment to the most vulnerable among us, he visited the affected areas in Thailand following the 2004 tsunami. In April 2005, he entered into a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to construct over 220 homes to provide shelter and safety, particularly for those children orphaned by the disaster.

All three of our witnesses provided the Committee with valuable information and perspectives with which we can indeed enhance our global fight to end human trafficking.

CELEBRATING THE THIRD ANNUAL PRINCE GEORGE'S CLASSIC WEEKEND

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to welcome visitors from around the country to Maryland for the Third Annual Prince George's Classic Weekend.

Hosted by the Prince George's Black Chamber of Commerce (PGBCC), this weekend celebrates black college football, educational achievement, tradition, community pride, and unity. On Saturday, September 30, 2006 at Bulldog Stadium, the Bowie State University Bulldogs will face the North Carolina Central University Eagles. These are two of the top teams in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), the Nation's oldest black athletic conference, and the game promises to be a first-rate contest.

Mr. Speaker, the Classic comprises much more than one football game, as an entire weekend of events throughout Prince George's County is planned, beginning tomorrow evening—including a Welcome Reception, services at Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington, a Black College Showcase, a Battle of the Bands, the Harlem Renaissance Golf Classic, a Fashion Show featuring the work of local and national couture designers, and a Comedy Show.

This exciting weekend would not be possible without the support of numerous individuals and organizations, and I especially want to acknowledge the new President of Bowie State University, Dr. Mickey Burnim; Dr. Calvin Lowe, BSU President emeritus, BSU Coach Mike Lynn, Jr., PCBCC President Hubert "Petey" Green, and Mike Little, President of the Prince George's Classic.

I want to welcome all participants to our state for the Third Annual Prince George's Classic weekend, and I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them a wonderful celebration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on Monday September 25, 2006, I missed the following votes: Rollcall No. 471: H.R. 5059, To designate the Wild River Wilderness in the White Mountain

National Forest in the State of New Hampshire, and for other purposes.; Rollcall No. 472: H.R. 5062, To designate as wilderness certain National Forest System land in the State of New Hampshire; and Rollcall No. 473: H. R. 6102, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Lawyers Road, NW in Vienna, Virginia, as the 'Captain Christopher P. Petty and Major William F. Hecker, III Post Office Building'. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall No. 471, Rollcall No. 472, and Rollcall No. 473.

IN HONOR OF THE 2ND BATTALION, 127TH INFANTRY

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize before this House the courageous men and women of the Wisconsin National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry who recently returned from their deployment overseas.

For over a year, the 127th Infantry was based at Camp Navistar on the border of Kuwait and Iraq. The vast majority of their missions were near Camp Cedar, otherwise known as the "Cedar Run," where they served under perilous conditions as escorts for military and civilian convoys in armored trucks. The infantry was also called on to take longer missions into war-torn Baghdad, battling deadly roadside bombs and surprise enemy attacks. These brave men and women put their lives on the line each and every day to fight for democracy and freedom. But their commitment wasn't without heartache. Three courageous members of the 127th Infantry lost their lives carrying the torch of liberty in Iraq and their service will always be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, there's no question the 127th Infantry helped nourish the seeds of liberty in Iraq, and their service and sacrifice are to be commended. It is my honor to recognize their brave efforts today, and on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District, I say thank you and welcome home. You truly are our heroes.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the month of October as national domestic violence awareness month. Though we have made great strides in bringing attention to the tragedy of domestic violence, more than 4 million Americans continue to find themselves victims of physical, psychological and sexual abuse. Domestic violence crosses every line of ethnicity, geography, and income. Abuse occurs in every single community in our country—every community—and it must be fought in every community.

It wasn't very long ago that family violence was considered just that—a family matter. A

battered woman was forced to suffer the cuts and bruises and the terror and tears in silence. In my parents' generation, many folks whispered and had suspicions about what was going on next door. Seeing bruised children or watching a wife cower when her husband spoke to her caused speculation on what was taking place in the home. Unfortunately, no one intervened because that was a family matter and none of their business.

Domestic violence rarely made the headlines then and rarely makes the headlines now, primarily because most of the abuse occurs behind closed doors. In most instances, the victim knows the attacker. More than 50 percent of victims are battered by a boyfriend or girlfriend. More than 30 percent are assaulted by spouses, while 15 percent are attacked by ex-spouses. Many victims are reluctant to report these incidents to anyone because they fear this will only make things worse.

Society tends to misplace the blame for continued abuse, focusing on the victim and criticizing him or her for not leaving the abuser. In many cases victims simply do not have the physical or financial resources to get out of the relationship. They often stay until things hit rock bottom.

Every year, domestic violence results in approximately 100,000 days of hospitalization and more than 28,000 visits to emergency rooms. In these cases, major medical treatment is often required. Furthermore, the possibility of being murdered by an abuser increases to 75 percent if the woman attempts to leave on her own.

Today, domestic violence is still causing terror and tears. But the story and its ending isn't quite the same. Thankfully, many of the calls for help are now answered. I would like to commend those who work every day to help victims of domestic violence, especially those who work in the nine service areas of my 69 county district—Dodge City, Emporia, Garden City, Great Bend, Hays, Hutchinson, Liberal, Salina, and Ulysses. They are the unsung heroes battling the culture of darkness that domestic violence victims are caught up in.

Proximity to a safe facility can mean the difference between life and death. Though progress has been made in accessing services, many victims in central and western Kansas and other rural areas remain hundreds of miles away from the closest shelter. Ensuring safe havens for victims who leave abusive environments must continue to be a priority.

Most domestic violence centers rely primarily on grants and local donations. Federal grants made under the Violence Against Women Act provided essential funds for shelter operations and support services. That program has been credited with substantially reducing the levels of violence committed against women and children. We must continue to ensure that our shelters and crisis centers receive adequate funding.

As National Domestic Violence Awareness Month begins, we are reminded that domestic violence is an issue that must be addressed all year long. Only through funding, education and support can America hope to end this terrible crime.

TRIBUTE TO ST. LEO THE GREAT'S CHURCH

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to St. Leo the Great's Church on its 125th anniversary of service to Baltimore City's Little Italy neighborhood.

Located at Stiles and Exeter Streets, the heart of Baltimore's Italian-American community, St. Leo's served as the first worship and community center for Italian immigrants arriving in Baltimore. One of the many immigrant families to worship at St. Leo's was the D'Alesandro family, whose members would serve as mayors, members of Congress and as the first woman Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Over the years, St. Leo's provided spiritual renewal as well as community social activities and education. During the Great Baltimore Fire in 1904, the congregation at St. Leo's prayed for the fire to spare their homes and their church. Their prayers to St. Anthony were answered when, after raging for 31 hours and destroying most of downtown Baltimore, the fire stopped just short of Little Italy. Each year, the St. Anthony Society holds a festival to celebrate their good fortune and the power of faith.

After World War II, as many Italian-American families of Little Italy moved to the suburbs, St. Leo's was forced to close its school and fell on hard times, as did many of the City's older neighborhoods. But the congregation at St. Leo's was loyal and inventive and today St. Leo's and the surrounding neighborhood have been rejuvenated.

In Italy, the church was the locus of the village. St. Leo the Great's Church in Little Italy has enabled the Baltimore Italian-American community to continue that tradition. Today, St. Leo's primary school has been transformed into the The Rev. Oreste Pandola Cultural Learning Center. Thanks to the efforts of congregant Rosalie Ranieri, the Center offers classes and clubs to neighbors and former residents now scattered across the region.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting the contributions of St. Leo the Great's Church to the Italian-American community of Baltimore as well as to our Nation. I also ask that they join me in sending best wishes for many more years of service to the community. *Congratulazioni.*

SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO END THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for the three bills under consideration this week relating to the crisis in Darfur, Sudan. These bills, H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006 conference report, H. Res. 723, which calls on the President to take immediate steps

to improve the security situation in Darfur, and H. Res. 992, which urges the President to appoint a Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan, all take concrete steps towards ending the genocide in Darfur.

The situation in Darfur, Sudan is increasingly concerning. Nearly three million Sudanese citizens will require emergency assistance in the next year. Sudanese government forces support Janjaweed Arab militias that commit crimes against humanity, including genocide. More than one million people were driven from their homes since February 2003, while over 150,000 people took refuge in neighboring Chad. The hundreds of thousands of displaced people who remain in the Darfur region are confined to government controlled camps. Using Sudanese government resources, the Janjaweed militias rape, attack and prey upon these helpless victims.

We must hold the Sudanese government accountable. I commend Representative HENRY HYDE (R-IL) for introducing the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2005. I am a cosponsor of this important bill that intensifies sanctions on the Government of Sudan, particularly targeting those responsible for genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity.

The United States should do more to end the brutal killing and ethnic cleansing of civilians. We must bring war criminals to justice. I was glad to see H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act conference report pass the House of Representatives yesterday by voice vote. I urge President Bush to sign this important bill which takes significant measures to bring a lasting peace to this war-stricken region.

I am also a firm supporter and cosponsor of House Resolution 992, which urges President Bush to appoint a Special Envoy for Sudan. I joined Representative FRANK WOLF (R-VA) in sending a letter to the President requesting he appoint a Special Envoy earlier this summer. I was pleased to hear President Bush declare in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly that he is appointing former USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios to be the new Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan. Earlier in my career I worked closely with Mr. Natsios to tackle one of the worst humanitarian crises of the 1990's. Natsios coordinated food aid during the North Korea famine which saved tens of thousands of lives. Mr. Natsios is an experienced diplomat, and I am confident in his ability to coordinate American policy in the region to resolve this conflict.

Despite the sincere efforts of our government, which has led the international community in providing nearly \$440 million in emergency supplemental aid this year, millions of victims continue to live in camps under horrible conditions. Murderous militias continue to slaughter innocent civilians. We have a duty to bring an end to this humanitarian crisis. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these bills that demonstrate America's leadership in defense of those who need our help the most.

ROUNDING UP MEXICO'S MOST WANTED

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it's a big day in the U.S. when we catch someone on our Most